



Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic/Latinx Affairs Commission

Regular Meeting | August 13, 2026 | 5:30 – 6:30 pm

City Hall at One Technology Center | Room 10 North

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present: Amy Ariza, Carlos Bejarano, Chriss Chavez, Jose Bamaca Hernandez, Fatima Linares, Mark Ohnesorge, Amanda Peregrina

Commissioners Absent: Jackie Gonzalez, Mimi Martinez Herrera, Jessica Lozano-Alvarez, Diana Pennington, Angelica Reina Paez

Liaisons Present: Riley Howard, Andy Little

Liaisons Absent: Mariana Sánchez

I. Call to Order

- a. Vice Chair Chavez called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. A quorum was not yet present.

II. Guest Speaker: Marcia Bruno-Todd, Leadership Tulsa Executive Director

- a. Marcia Bruno-Todd spoke about Leadership Tulsa's (LT) program Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI).
 - i. The first cohort was in 2017 and was created with the goal to expand Hispanic/Latine leadership across the city.
 - ii. Every graduating class has informed the direction of the future of the program.
 - iii. The program is more about personal leadership development; there is an expectation of giving back to community.
 - iv. LT partners with City of Tulsa and Tulsa Area United Way to bring in data.
- b. LT is planning an HLI Summit in early spring 2017 that will gather alumni.
 - i. Will provide updated data on health, education, and economic opportunity and highlight existing opportunities to serve in Tulsa.
 - ii. The summit will have a focus on civic leadership.
 - iii. Marcia wants to partner with GTAHLAC on a session. Possible topics include how to advocate for policy; what it's like to serve as a commissioner; share awareness of a City program, policy, or opportunity; or other ideas.
- c. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez arrived at 5:38. The commission was now at quorum.

III. Commission Discussion: Hispanic Leadership Institute Support



- a. Vice Chair Chavez asked what GTAHLAC can do to support. Marcia answered that LT is currently surveying alumni to gather feedback that will inform the summit, then can identify topics that commissioners can present. Civic leadership is important. Marcia referenced the Equality Indicator 49.
- b. Commissioner Bejarano shared that it's valuable for the commission to receive feedback from community. This could be an opportunity to listen to instead of present to community. Marcia noted that many alumni have experience with peer consultancy protocols.
- c. Vice Chair Chavez referenced that data shows that Hispanos are still the lowest represented on ABCs. Marcia would love GTAHLAC to see this as an opportunity to recruit ABC members. GTAHLAC can bring printed applications, and LT will include in follow up materials. Vice Chair Chavez will ensure all commissioners have access to the Equality Indicators.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. Vice Chair Chavez entertained a motion to approve the April, May, and June meeting minutes.
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano motioned, and Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0
 - ii. Motion carried; April, May, and June meeting minutes approved.

V. Vice Chair Report

- a. Vice Chair Chavez shared there was no Executive Committee meeting.
- b. GTAHLAC has met the tabling goal for year (two events) with two significant events coming up, Festival de Tulsa (September 13) and Festival Americas (October 4). Vice Chair Chavez called upon commissioners to volunteer to table at these events.
 - i. Will table for three hours at each.
 - ii. Commissioners can sign up in shifts. Will send a sign-up sheet.
 - iii. Vice Chair Chavez will be there and will bring an awning.
 - iv. If you'd like to participate with the City of Tulsa's group in the Fiesta de Tulsa parade, let Lexi know and she will share information to join.
- c. All commissions were present at the July TYPROS event. Vice Chair Chavez and Chairwoman Gonzalez made great connections with young professionals.

VI. Action: Vote to Recommend Human Rights Commission Liaison for Appointment

- a. Vice Chair Chavez opened the floor for nominations.
 - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge nominated Commissioner Peregrina.
- b. Vice Chair Chavez entertained a motion to recommend Commissioner Peregrina as GTAHLAC's HRC liaison.
 - i. Commissioner Bejarano motioned, and Commissioner Ohnesorge seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0



- ii. Motion carried, Commissioner Peregrina is recommended as GTAHLC's HRC liaison.

VII. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee – no report
- b. Education Committee – no report
- c. Community Advocacy Committee – no report
- d. Public Safety Committee
 - i. Riley reported that EMSAcare open enrollment is currently taking place. He shared Spanish resources and noted that Spanish resources are available online. EMSA is open to feedback to make these resources more accessible.
 - 1. On October 1 transport and treatment rates are increasing; however, EMSA is still lowest cost provider in Oklahoma, and they provide a discount for uninsured individuals. The monthly enrollment fee is not changing.
 - ii. Tulsa Police Department (TPD) Chief Larsen is retiring.
 - iii. Second Spanish Citizen Academy graduated, TPD plans to continue program.
 - iv. TPD plans to increase the bilingual language stipend.
 - v. Tulsa Health Department currently has 17 vacancies, six of which require bilingual skills.
 - vi. Council for Safe Neighborhoods event in November.
 - vii. New Tulsa County Sheriff's Office liaison to GTAHLC is Mariana Sánchez.
 - viii. Vice Chair Chavez is working to revise committee description in bylaws.
- e. Immigration Committee
 - i. Commissioner Ariza received updates from a committee member who is an immigrant attorney. The bond situation for those on immigration hold has improved, as most detainees can now qualify for a bond instead of waiting in jail until they see a judge. No data yet on how many bonds are being issued.
- f. Business Engagement Committee
 - i. Commissioner Bamaca Hernandez: Last call for business owners to apply to the Kitchen 66 Lanzamiento program, have three spots to fill.
 - ii. There will be another propane inspection event on Sept. 22 and 23.
 - iii. The committee would like to compile a handbook for food truck owners.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Vice Chair Chavez asked about status of letter to local attorneys to support immigration cases, Commissioner Ariza shared that with the update on the bond for immigration hold, the need is less urgent. However, the letter is ready, the committee only needs clarity on where to send it from and to where responses should go.
 - i. Lexi shared the commission can create a Gmail account.



- ii. Commissioner Bejarano asked for clarity on the purpose of the list, Vice Chair Chavez and Commissioner Ariza answered that the list will be of lawyers willing to help with immigration cases pro bono.

IX. New Business

- a. Commissioner Ariza represented GTAHLAC at a closed forum with Mayor Nichols and east Tulsa leaders to inform priorities for the next TPD Chief. She shared that participating in Citizen's Police Academy highlighted how important it is for officers to speak Spanish and understand Hispanic/Latine culture. Identified recruiting more Hispanic officers should be a first-year goal of the new chief.

X. Announcements / Public Comments

- a. Vice Chair Chavez attended the domestic violence prevention summit at DVIS. This connects to the Tulsa Women's Commission's focus on women's safety and Mayor Nichols' goal to make Tulsa the safest big city in the country.

XI. Adjournment

- a. Vice Chair Chavez entertained a motion to adjourn.
 - i. Commissioner Ohnesorge motioned, Commissioner Peregrina seconded.
 - 1. Aye: 7, Nay: 0
 - ii. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.